

REMARKS

1. INTRODUCTION

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 16-34, and for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, and 15. In the present Response and Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has further amended claim 3-5, 7, 10-12, and 15. Accordingly, claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, 15, and 16-34 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, and 15 have been amended to be rewritten in independent form, and include all of the limitations of their original base claims, and any intervening claims.

3. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takada (U.S. Pat. No. 4,793,631). Applicants respectfully overcome this rejection through cancellation of claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is hereby respectfully requested.

4. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada as applied to claims 1 and 13, and further in view of Allard et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,239,147). Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takada (U.S. Pat. No. 4,793,631). Applicants respectfully overcome this rejection through cancellation of claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is hereby respectfully requested.

5. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 16-25, and for the indication that claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, and would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of

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the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, and 15 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. **CONCLUSION**

For at least the above-cited reasons, all claims pending in the present application are now believed to be allowable. Early receipt of a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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